

entered the union at a rate of five new coins each year for 10 years. I am pleased to report that the Banking Committee fully considered the merits of this legislation. H.R. 3793 was the subject of a comprehensive hearing and was unanimously reported from the subcommittee.

Let me emphasize that the committee carefully weighed the merits of this bill since any changes to the Nation's circulating coins must have strong popular appeal. The testimony received in our committee hearing did support the view that this bill provides significant public benefit. In addition to the surplus funds this program will accrue to the Treasury, the principal benefit will be to highlight the history and the importance of each State's individual contribution to the union we know as the United States of America.

Again, I compliment my colleagues on the Banking Committee for bringing this bill to the floor and I urge an enthusiastic "aye" vote.

TRIBUTE TO A FLIER

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, bustling in the skies overhead—airplanes and helicopters, satellites and spaceships, dirigibles and sometimes even UFO's—orbit the Earth in voyages of commerce, missions of mercy, war, flights of fantasy, and excursions of adventure and leisure.

For centuries our ancestors had no paths through the clouds. Once, most thought man would never fly; that only birds might soar the kingdom of clouds and rainbows. Today pilots steer passengers through the clouds and across the starry skies because dreamers and thinkers and inventors held to a faith that someday man would navigate the heavens.

Those who keep faith in their missions open new worlds and inspire us all to reach new heights.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a little bit of the story of one of our Nation's first black commercial airline pilots. Perry Jones is one of those faithful whose hard work, spirit, and dedication chartered a new course to the future. He is a model for young people who are pursuing dreams of flying and he is a model for older people who are searching out new rainbows when they retire from their life's work. Mr. Speaker, Capt. M. Perry Jones is one of our Nation's high-flying heroes.

Enclosed is a copy of an article on Capt. M. Perry Jones which was recently published by Visions magazine and written by Mr. Ronald Johnson and Ms. Constance Gipson of the California Department of Education.

CAPTAIN M. PERRY JONES

PILOT, DELTA AIRLINES; PRESIDENT,
ORGANIZATION OF BLACK AIRLINE PILOTS

Birthplace: Cartersville, Virginia.

Raised: Montclair, New Jersey.

Resides: Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

Captain M. Perry Jones was born in Cartersville, Virginia, and lived with his grandparents on a small farm. His grandfather was his hero. "Wherever he went, I went. I was his shadow," he recalls fondly. "He, my grandmother, and my aunts played a major role in my life." Captain Jones

joined his parents and his brother in New Jersey when he was ten.

"I knew I wanted to be a pilot when I was five or six years old. I used to watch planes fly over my house and dream of becoming a pilot. Because I was poor, I didn't know how I was going to do it, but I knew what I wanted." Now, after overcoming numerous obstacles, Captain Perry Jones flies an A310, also known as an air bus, between New York and Europe, touching down in such cities as Bucharest, Warsaw, Hamburg, and Budapest, and many other exciting places.

An honor student and athlete in high school, Jones went on to earn two college degrees at the same time, one in aeronautical engineering and the other in mechanical engineering at the same time. Being focused was his key to success in high school and college. He was determined to be the best. In high school, he excelled in math, science, and physics, and his extraordinary efforts earned him several scholarship offers to some of the best colleges in the country. He chose the University of Pittsburgh because of its exemplary track program. He was on a world record relay team.

Although sports were important to Jones, academics came first. In college, Jones got up at three o'clock every morning to study. His dedication and self-discipline paid off when he was hired right out of college as an engineer by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

After one year at Lockheed, Jones joined the Air Force, and entered flight training. He ranked first in academics and first in flying ability, but he was sent to navigation school and became a navigator.

It was not until he had completed navigator training and was assigned to Travis Air Force Base in California that he got the opportunity to attend pilot training. A general recognized Jones's ability and mentored him, leading to his return to aviation school and pilot training. Next, he was sent to Vietnam, where he flew air tankers that refueled bombers in flight. After six years in the Air Force, during which he flew 126 missions in Vietnam, Jones left military life to become the first African American pilot to fly for Pan American Airlines.

Because of his rich experiences in aviation, Captain Jones strongly believes that young people should continue to pursue aeronautical careers: "Opportunities will be there for young people who want to be in aviation, even with the current trend toward scaling down the airlines."

As president of the Organization of Black Airline Pilots, Captain Jones testifies before Congress and makes television and radio appearances about blacks in aviation—there are approximately 660 black airline pilots in the United States today. The Organization of Black Airline Pilots holds seminars and flight schools, and provides support to aspiring pilots and persons already flying for the airlines.

Captain Jones believes that he owes a debt to the people who helped him, so he volunteers countless hours working with young African Americans, helping them pursue their career goals. He wants to see young African American men gain self-esteem through meaningful employment so that there can be a return to the sense of family that has traditionally been part of the black culture. "Young men need to learn how to get a good job so that they can raise their families with dignity. They can't respect others until they have learned to respect themselves." Captain M. Perry Jones lives and practices the philosophy, "I judge myself on how I have helped other people to reach their goals."

TRIBUTE TO THE PONAGANSET WIND ENSEMBLE

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superb performance of the Ponaganset Wind Ensemble at the 1996 International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria.

The Ponaganset Wind Ensemble, instructed by Mr. Nedo Pandolfi of Ponaganset High School in Rhode Island's Foster/Glocester Regional School District, met all expectations by taking first place in the festival's band competition—a feat never before achieved by an ensemble from the Ocean State.

Chosen as one of only three bands to represent the United States, Ponaganset, which placed third at the 1982 Vienna Festival, showed the world how countless hours of practice and dedication can produce brilliance. So impressive was Ponaganset's performance that the student's were awarded the Cup of Vienna, an accolade not given every year and awarded only when the festival panel recognizes exemplary musical performance.

The Ensemble's 46 young musicians, ages 14 to 18, not only successfully competed on an international stage, but also found boundless opportunities to receive a priceless musical education. The Wind Ensemble performed for numerous crowds at local fairs and open air arenas throughout Vienna's historical downtown area, and also visited the memorials to some of the world's most legendary composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss.

Mr. Pandolfi established the Ponaganset Wind Ensemble program in 1960, the same year that Ponaganset High School was founded. Thirty-six years later, both the instructor and the pupils should be praised for their momentous achievement, which is an experience whose memories will last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the following members of the Ponaganset Wind Ensemble, who have clearly illustrated what we can achieve when we follow our dreams. Their accomplishments are indicative of the perseverance and effort necessary to achieve success:

Monique Barrett, Foster; Jesse Poulin, Foster; Josh Bedard, Foster; Katie Bedard, Foster; Andrew Fast, Foster; Aletha Holmes, Foster; Hilary McElroy, Foster; Richard Muldoon, Foster; Jennifer Sherblum, Foster; Diane Shippee, Foster; Dyani Tait, Foster; Diana Walden, Foster; Colin Walsh, Foster.

Melissa Alberg, Glocester; Tom Alberg, Glocester; Kim Angarella, Glocester; Roger Bissell, Glocester; Daniel Boucher, Glocester; Katie Broccoli, Glocester; Brooke Brown, Glocester; Courtney Brown, Glocester; Peter Carpenter, Glocester; Scott Carpenter, Glocester; Brendan Carroll, Glocester; Jesse Chace, Glocester; Nick Collins, Glocester; Sarah Colwell, Glocester; Stephanie Darigan, Glocester; Matthew Dube, Glocester; Christopher Fellow, Glocester; Tara Foley, Glocester; Beth Hammond, Glocester; Danielle Lavendier, Glocester; Bethany Lyford, Glocester; Megan Mason, Glocester; Nathan Mason, Glocester; Nicholas Pinder, Glocester; Jane Ragno, Glocester; Michael Roberto,